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APPLICATION

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FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

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SPECIFICATION

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TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT WE, SYLVESTER ROEBUCK JR AND
25 GARY ROEBUCK, citizens of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have
invented a new and useful CLOTHES HAMPER of which the following is a
specification:

CLOTHES HAMPER

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to clothes storage bins and more particularly pertains to a new clothes storage bin for keeping clothes lifted upwards for easy retrieval.

15 Description of the Prior Art

The use of clothes storage bins, and in particular those for holding laundry to be cleaned, is known in the prior art. While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the need 20 remains for a clothes hamper that keeps clothes at a level generally adjacent to an opening of the hamper so that a user of the hamper need not bend over to remove clothes from a bottom of the hamper.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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To this end, the present invention generally comprises a container including a bottom wall and a peripheral wall that is attached to and extends upwardly from the bottom wall. The peripheral wall has an upper edge defining an opening extending into the container. A plurality of 30 guides is attached to an inner surface of the peripheral wall. Each of the guides is vertically orientated. A panel is positioned in the container. The panel has a top side, a bottom side and a peripheral edge. The panel is

mounted on the plurality of guides such that the panel may be selectively moved between the bottom wall and the upper edge. At least one biasing member is mounted in the container for biasing the panel away from the bottom wall. The panel moves downwardly as additional clothes are 5 positioned on the panel and the panel moves upwardly as clothes are removed from the panel.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that 10 follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

15 The objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20 The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

25 Figure 1 is a schematic perspective view of a clothes hamper according to the present invention.

Figure 2 is a schematic cross-sectional view taken along line 2-2 of 30 Figure 1 of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a schematic cross-sectional view taken along line 3-3 of Figure 1 of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

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With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 3 thereof, a new clothes storage bin embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

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As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 3, the clothes hamper 10 generally comprises a container 12 including a bottom wall 14 and a peripheral wall 16 that is attached to and extends upwardly from the bottom wall 14. The peripheral wall 16 has an upper edge 18 defining an opening 20 extending into the container 12. The peripheral wall 16 preferably has a height generally between 30 inches and 50 inches. A lid 22 is hingedly coupled to the upper edge 18 for selectively closing or opening the container 12.

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Each of a plurality of guides 24 is attached to an inner surface of the peripheral wall 16. Each of the guides 24 is vertically orientated and generally extends between the bottom wall 14 and the upper edge 18. The guides 24 are spaced from each other. Preferably, each of the guides 24 includes a pair of elongate members 26 spaced from each other.

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A panel 28 is positioned in the container 12. The panel 28 has a top side 30, a bottom side 32 and a peripheral edge 34. The panel 28 is mounted on the plurality of guides 24 such that the panel 28 may be selectively moved between the bottom wall 14 and the upper edge 18. The panel 28 has a size and shape generally equal to an inner perimeter of the container 12. The peripheral edge 34 has a plurality of slots 36 therein.

The slots 36 preferably have shapes contoured to the pairs of elongate members 26 such that the peripheral edge 34 extends between each of the pairs of elongate members 26. Each of the slots 36 is positioned such that each of the guides 24 is positioned in one of the slots 36.

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At least one biasing member 38 is mounted in the container 12 for biasing the panel 28 away from the bottom wall 14. The at least one biasing member 38 preferably extends between the bottom wall 14 and the panel 28. The at least one biasing member 38 ideally includes a plurality 10 of biasing members 38. Each of the biasing members 38 is positioned between a pair of elongate members 26 and ideally comprises a spring that extends between the bottom wall 14 and the bottom side 32 of the panel 28.

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In use, the panel 28 moves downwardly as additional clothes 8 are positioned on the panel 28, and the panel 28 moves upwardly as clothes 8 are removed from the panel 28. The biasing members 38 are selected so that regardless of the amount of clothes 8 positioned on the panel 28, the uppermost positioned clothes 8 will be generally adjacent to the upper edge 18 of the peripheral wall 16. This allows a person to remove the clothes 8 without having to bend over and reach to the bottom of the container 12. This prevents injuries to backs as well as aids those who may 20 have physical impairments which would otherwise make it difficult to reach the bottom of the container 12.

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With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to 30 one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated

in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the
5 principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.